

About That Record . . .

by R. J. Potter

Hello You!

Some people say you can't beat a parley that ties greatness with greatness. Frank Sinatra and Count Basie have a new album "Sinatra-Basie" on Sinatra's Reprise label. I can picture them as two innocent small boys who have just dropped a match in a gasoline tank saying, "Let's see what happens!" It's a well put together album with Basie's bandmen pushing some real exploding drive which Basie is well known for. If you listen to some of the cuts you'll find Basie a little over-powering for Sinatra at times. No word needs to be said here about Sinatra's singing as no popular singer has approached Sinatra yet. I have always wanted to hear a side with Sinatra and Basie together but this one turned out as an unmistakable hands-down commercial venture. Sinatra still sounds best in front of Billy May or Nelson Riddle. It's like getting that little extra in your favorite drink.

A new record place now stands on the corner of Cahuenga Boulevard in Hollywood, California. Sinatra's Reprise label moved into their new home two weeks ago. The new diskery contains double the space and facilities of the old headquarters which I would assume is a part of Sinatra's big expansion program. According to Reprise veep, Mo Ostin, the new big time pow-wow center is needed for a new concentrated dose of singles and LP's. So far, Sinatra's own records along with those of Sammy Davis,



R. J. Potter, WNTC disk jockey, says, "Sinatra and Basie album is a hands-down commercial venture."

Jr., Dean Martin, The Hi-Lo's, Acer Bilk, Mavis Rivers, and Lou "Pepino" Monte are snowballing in sales. With the arrangements of Billy May, Neal Hefti, Si Oliver, Marty Paich, and Don Costa, things are starting to happen. Among many of the new projects lined up is Duke Ellington to cut a couple of sides. Keely Smith has also signed to Reprise.

If your palate craves for savory vocal swing records, pick up "The Swinger" by the Four Freshman. The Frosh really move out on this one with the arrangements of Bill Holman who pens some of the Stan Kenton programming. This time Holman has dealt off the top of the deck with some clever integration of voice and instruments. Several tunes that used to be strictly big-

band instrumentals like "Taps Miller" of the Count Basie book, Stan Kenton's "Dynaflow" and "Satin Doll" of Duke Ellington fame have now become smooth, swingin' wordless vocals.

Another first rate album is Nancy Wilson's "Hello Young Lovers." This young lady has taken George Shearing's cheesy commerical arrangement and created a variety of fine moods with her excellent focusing on the phrase along with her first class dynamics, tone and control. This gal has really got things to come for her. With her added sparkling charm and grace she is, well becoming a "singers' singer."

There's a couple of good easy listening albums going around. One is the Ramsey Lewis Trio's "Bossa Nova". It is certainly nothing outstanding but a very listenable sound that well fits the groups musical personality. And don't you dare give "the thumbs-down" on Billy Taylor's new "Impromptu" album. Better yet, tune your dear radio receiver to Billy's jazz show on the grand-daddy of Gotham radio, WNEW AM-FM, 1130 on your radio, in New York. Not only being recognized as a technically good jazz pianist, he is also an arranger, composer, author, lecturer and D-J. (The latter naturally makes him a friend of man and dog right there. . . ah-hum.) If you got'em smoke'm!

The Tall Midget

On the 33 record spins . . .

- "Jazz Samba" Stan Getz - Charlie Byrd — "They don't come any better."
- "(Movin')" Peter, Paul & Mary — "Second installment better than the first."
- "New Frontier" Kingston Trio — "It's about time!"
- "Trombone Jazz Samba" Bobby Brookmeyer — "Robert's a good boy. Nice sound!"
- "Adventure in Jazz" Stan Kenton — "It's Kenton all right. But Stan has done a lot better work."
- "Oliver" Original Cast Sound Track — "Wonderful music and terrific show."
- "Our Man in Hollywood" Henry Mancini — "Most wanted commercial arranger in Hollywood with prospects of another 'Emmy' with 'Days of Wine and Roses.'"
- "Adventures in Jazz" George Shearing Trio — "Shearing has been sent through the cleaners so many times with some of his schmaltzy messes. This one with drummer Vernal Feneir and the late Israel Crosby has got him back in the right groove."